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1. The German Border Police Alert Unit (DOB) in Muehlhausen has three border commands: Arenshausen, Kreuzburg, and Geismar. There are also command posts in Warta, Grossborschia, and Mihla.

4. The procedure followed in controlling interzonal traffic at the control point Warta, under the jurisdiction of the Warta command unit, was as follows:

- a. Employees of the Deutsche Notenbank checked the amount of money carried by travelers.
- b. The Office for Commodity Control (Amt fuer Warenkontrolle) checked the baggage and determined whether there was any money not declared by the traveler. If so, all money in the traveler's possession was confiscated.

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- c. Passport control was conducted by the police. Passports had to be brought into a room in the control barracks where they were handed through a slot into a second room. Here a member of the SSD, wearing a border-police uniform, compared the passports with a list of wanted individuals. The police were also responsible for observing the employees of the Office of Commodity Control to see that they carried out baggage checks properly.
- d. Soviet patrols checked on the police to make sure that they carried out controls properly.

Only the two SSD members assigned to the checkpoint had access to the card file of wanted individuals. Reportedly more West German travelers were arrested than West Berlin travelers. As of June 1953 the commanding officer at Werta was First Lt. Rahn (fnu); it is believed that he is still in charge.

5. Border patrols frequently came into contact with officers of the Federal German Border Police. Very few members of the Werta unit, which was composed of 50 to 60 men, were strict in their official conduct. Almost all had joined the police for financial reasons or for reasons other than ideological. With the exception of a few informers, members of this check-point had to let various items pass through unnoticed. The commanding officer, Rahn, is reportedly humane and moderate. Despite a decree from the Ministry for State Security which ordered the border police patrols to shoot immediately at all illegal border crossers

Rahn instructed his men first to fire warning shots, which under all circumstances were to miss the target. If the border crosser then did not halt, the patrols were to act according to their own judgment. Thus Rahn actually neutralized the Ministry order.

6. At the beginning of 1953 a control tower was to be erected within the area of each command post. Thus, commanding officers or their deputies would be able to observe the patrols through field glasses. On one occasion a member of a patrol failed to arrest an elderly woman who was in the forbidden area, and after a long conversation with her, he accepted a pack of cigarettes. For accepting a bribe he was liable to a sentence of several years in prison. However, the commanding officer chose to take very mild disciplinary action, and the patrol member was sentenced to only ten days of construction work.
7. During the fall of 1952, three border policemen were arrested in the Arenshausen area. All three were acquainted with Catholic girls and, according to official charges, had fallen under church influence. About the end of 1952 or the beginning of 1953 all Catholic or formerly Catholic border policemen were transferred out of the Muhlhausen area into Protestant areas.
8. Relations with the local population were very poor, largely because the Border Police Alert Unit repeatedly disturbed church services. For example, document controls were carried out in Catholic churches during services and other religious ceremonies. The usual consequence was that on one of the following evenings one or more border policemen would be beaten up by the population. Subsequently, the commanding officer of the Border Police Alert Unit would advance the curfew hour from 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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- 9 There are no Soviet patrols responsible for border security. However, there are several camouflaged observation posts, which were built at night, in the vicinity of the border. These are spaced from one to two kilometers apart and from them Soviet double patrols, who are on duty from 12 to 16 hours, observe Federal Republic territory. They are instructed to report all changes there, even the removal of trees. In addition they have to report when and where control units and patrols of the Federal border police, as well as Allied patrols, appear. The Soviet observation posts are equipped with field glasses, as well as carbines with telescopic sights. Rotation of the guards has to be made secretly.
- 10 During the first few days following Stalin's death, the Soviet guards altered their behavior. Some of them shot, especially after dark, at anyone who came into their vision, including border-police patrols. Thus, one border policeman in the Tarta area was wounded and ten civilians were killed. As a result, the border police no longer sent out patrols. After a short time the old situation was restored by the Soviet border command.
- 11 Three percent of the salary of border policemen is automatically deducted for reconstruction and for subscription fees for Neues Deutschland and for Pravda. Border policemen have a 10:00 p.m. curfew. They are not allowed to play cards. Conditions permitting, married men receive weekend leave every four weeks.
- 12 In January 1953 a serious incident took place in the area of the border command in Grossschorschla, during which a West German customs official was shot to death. The customs official was sitting on the Western barrier patrol and had attempted to engage the East German border policeman in conversation. The East German policeman had made a few political statements, whereupon the customs official declared that the East German was crazy. The latter pulled out his pistol, shot the customs official, and wounded him in the leg. The customs official returned fire and wounded the East German in the arm, whereupon the East German killed the customs official with a burst from his machine pistol. Several hours later, members of the Federal Border Police declared to an East German border patrol that in the near future they would kill ten East German border policemen known to be the most radical politically. The East German border command, which did not want to provoke a showdown, admitted its guilt. The border patrols were withdrawn to the hinterland, and German observation posts were erected between Soviet observation posts at the border.
- 13 In September and October 1953 the border school Katzbruecke in Arenshausen offered four hours of political lectures and four hours of practical lectures each day. The chief topic in political training was the history of the CPSU. Practical training given the students included the use of the K 98, the K 100, and the LMG 34. There was also training in map-reading and territorial reconnaissance, as well as handling of police dogs.
- 14 Rank-and-file border policemen had little knowledge of the issues at stake in the revolt of 17 June 1953. However, when demonstrations began in Muehlhausen on 18 June, they assumed that the government had been practically overthrown. One of the border policemen told his commanding officer that he did not care if he was arrested, inasmuch as he would be freed by the new government the next few days and the commanding officer would then be in prison in his place. Staff officers failed to take disciplinary measures but suddenly disappeared without a trace and did not return until the following day. A few days later those policemen who had mutinied were arrested and were transported to an unknown destination. Not even their families know their present whereabouts.

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